

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-52 are pending. Claims 1, 18, 32, 51, and 52, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided in the Specification as originally filed and specifically at pages 5-6 of the originally filed Specification.

No new matter has been introduced. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,152,824 to Rothschild, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Rothschild").

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"wherein the environment information server (1) periodically polls the one or more network environments (2) maintains the environment information database with a list of available network environments and network information for connecting to each network environment, and (3) updates the

environment information database with changes in the available network environments,

wherein said request handler exchanges data with said environment information database and returns, in response to a received request, an environment report,

wherein the environment report comprises:

information characterizing network environments selectable by the user for connection; and

client system dependent data derived by applying information from the environment information database to network information received from the client system,

wherein the environment information report is sent to the user before the user selects a network environment thereby allowing the user to view the environment information report, select one network environment, and connect to the one network environment." (Emphasis added)

The claimed invention generally relates to a network enabled device connecting to an information server **before** connecting to a network environment for the purpose of retrieving information on available networks in order to connect to the most desirable network.

As recited in claim 1, a user receives an environmental report, upon request before connecting to the network environment. **Thus, the user receives the environment report and then can connect to one network environment.**

In Contrast, in Rothschild, a user receives ping results from EVERY MCP on a list.

More specifically, claim 1 relates to an environment information server which periodically connects to available network environments for the purpose of updating an environment information database. Before a client system randomly attempts to connect to a

network environment, the client system is able to send a request for available network environment information to the environment information server which has updated information on all the available network environments, and receive in return, a report comprising the updated information. The client system can then make the best decision on which environment to connect. The information regarding each of the one or more environments comprises user count information and latency information measured relative to a sample client, and available services supported by the environment.

Rothschild relates to an online gaming system and process arranged in a client/server online gaming architecture utilized to run gaming programs.

In Rothschild a program on the client system is run. The program is referred to in Rothschild as the gizmo. The gizmo, first, gathers configuration files that are stored in volatile memory on the client system. These configuration files provide the program with addresses of known server computers. The program, now with a list of addresses of known server computers, begins to attempt to open a connection with each server computer in turn. Once connected to a server computer, the gizmo requests all the addresses of server computers that the connected server computer has.

The gizmo, as described in Rothschild, then pings each server computer on the list to determine latency. A program (MCP) on the connected server computer and a program on a pinged server computer "enter into a negotiation as to which MCP the gizmo should use for game rendezvous purposes." If a better server computer is determined, the gizmo disconnects from the original and attempts to connect with the better server computer.

Applicants submit that Rothschild does not teach or suggest the features of claim 1, and therefore, does not render claim 1 unpatentable. In Rothschild, the client system attempts to connect with other server computers based on a list and continues moving down that list until successful. The ultimate connection is found by connecting and disconnecting and re-connecting as a determination of MCPs running on computer servers. Figure 8 and 10 show that all MCPs on a list are pinged and address information is updated. Applicants submit that pinging all MCPs and updating address information does not teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to or somewhat similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 18, 32, and 51-52 are also patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

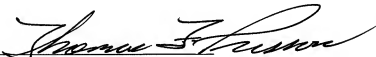
Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By



Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
Tel. (212) 588-0800